REMARKS

Claims 1-20, 22-31, and 35-37 are pending in this application. Claim 21 has been canceled to expedite prosecution, and claims 32-34 have been canceled without prejudice as drawn to non-elected subject matter. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue non-elected subject matter in a timely filed divisional. Claims 1, 20 and 22 have been amended and claims 35-37 added to define applicant's invention with greater particularity. The amendments and new claims are fully supported by the specification and no new matter has been added. In view of the amendment and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims and submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The rejection of claims 20-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Chaloner-Gill (U.S. Patent No. 5,445,856) is respectfully traversed. Claim 20 has been amended to include certain elements of claim 21; the latter claim has been canceled. Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form to include the elements of claim 20 as originally filed. As amended, claims 20 and 22 and their dependent claims distinguish over Chaloner-Gill by expressly reciting absorbent material completely lacking in the laminates of Chaloner-Gill. Thus, the cited reference does not teach or suggest the use of molecular sieves, magnesium phosphate, activated charcoal, and combinations thereof as a moisture absorbent (claim 20) nor does Chaloner-Gill teach or suggest a hydrofluoric acid absorbent selected from activated charcoal, molecular sieves, clays and combinations thereof. Accordingly, Chaloner-Gill fails to teach each and every element of claims 20 and 22-31. Applicants respectfully request that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

In addition, new claim 35, depending from claim 20, has been added. Claim 35 further distinguishes over Chaloner-Gill by reciting molecular sieves as the absorbent material present in

the sealant layer. As disclosed in paragraph 35 and Table 1 in the application, molecular sieves provide the advantage of preferentially reacting with water vapor rather than electrolyte solvent. In addition, molecular sieves also readily react with HF acid, a byproduct of electrolyte decomposition. These dual properties make molecular sieves particularly well suited as the absorbent material on the sealant layer in a laminate for use as a battery housing. Because Chaloner-Gill neither teaches nor suggests such a laminate utilizing molecular sieves, it is respectfully submitted that claim 35 is patentable and should be allowed.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The present Office Action maintains the obviousness rejections set forth in the prior Office Action, mailed 2/13/2003. Claims 1-5 and 7-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Chaloner-Gill (U.S. Patent No. 5,445,856) in view of Kurfman (U.S. Patent No. 4,612,216). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Chaloner-Gill in view of Kurfman and further in view of Sasaki (U.S. No. 6,277,516). Claims 18 and 19 were rejected as allegedly obvious over Chaloner-Gill in view of Kurfman and in view of Shores (U.S. No. 5,401,536). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants' invention as defined by amended claim 1 distinguishes over the combination of Chaloner-Gill and Kurfman by reciting a laminate comprising:

(a) a sealant layer that is capable of acting as a barrier to an electrolyte, the sealant layer having an internal surface that is substantially inert to the electrolyte and an external surface;

(b) a barrier layer comprising a first layer of metal foil and a second layer of metal foil adjacent to the first layer, the first and second layers of metal foil being separate and distinct, and the barrier layer having a first surface disposed adjacent to the external surface of the sealant layer and an external surface.

The present amendment clarifies that the barrier layer of the claimed laminate is comprised of a first layer of metal foil and a second layer of metal foil adjacent to the first layer, the first and second layers of metal foil being separate and distinct. The amended claim language emphasizes the discrete nature of the first and second layers of metal foil. As one of ordinary skill in the art will understand, a foil is a "very thin sheet metal." Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, page 451 (a copy of which is enclosed). Thus, the barrier layer comprises two very thin sheets of metal. The specification clearly supports the separate and distinct nature of the metal foils: paragraph 40 of the application discloses that in one embodiment "the layers of the flexible laminate may 'float' or slide over one another in a non-adhered fashion." In another embodiment, shown as FIG. 1, "[t]he first foil layer 13 is in turn attached with adhesive 14 to a second metal foil layer 15." Application, paragraph 36. New claims 36 and 37 are expressly directed to the latter embodiment. Thus, neither the amended claims nor the new claims encompass a single metal sheet having two layers.

Moreover, the claimed laminates provide superior leak protection over laminates having a barrier layer comprising a single metal sheet. As disclosed in paragraph 28 of the specification, metal foils have pinholes in them that allow solvent to leak from the packaging, thus causing battery failure due to corrosion-induced rupturing at this point. While thicker foil usually reduces the quantity of pinholes, the likelihood of foil cracking increases. Thicker foils are also more difficult to heat seal due to thermal conduction of heat by the thicker metal. As demonstrated by applicants' comparative example, a laminate made from two thin foils with a combined metal thickness of 18 microns had a marked improvement in barrier capability compared to a laminate made from a single 25 micron thick foil. Application, paragraph 56. This example dramatically illustrates that the improvement in performance depends on the use of two separate and distinct foils in which pinholes do not align with one another.

In contrast to the claimed invention, the combination of Chaloner-Gill and Kurfman fail to disclose a laminate having a barrier layer with first and second layers of metal foil that are

separate and distinct. Although the Examiner asserts that Chaloner-Gill teaches a laminate for protecting components of an electrochemical cell, he admits that "Chaloner-Gill fails to teach that the laminate comprises first and second metal layers, where the metal layers are adjacent to each other." Office Action, mailed 2/13/2003, page 6 (relied upon in present Office Action, pages 3-4, items 5-7). Combining Kurfman with Chaloner-Gill cannot cure this deficiency. Kurfman, directed to a laminate designed to prevent formation of crack voids that mar the appearance of metallized plastic films, (col. 1, lines 30-53; col. 4, lines 56-59) discloses a metal/metal/polymer laminate having two metal layers intimately adhered to each other. Kurfman, col. 2, lines 25-28. The metal/metal segregated structure of the laminate is very different from the separate and distinct metal foils required by the claimed invention.

Because of the way it is constructed, the segregated alloy of Kurfman is in fact a single sheet. The metallized film of Kurfman is formed first by depositing a metal or metal alloy on a polymer sheet. Kurfman, col. 2, lines 15-25. A second metal or metal alloy with a melting point slightly lower than that of the first is then deposited on the first metal layer. *Id.*, lines 25-34. The deposition of the layers is performed using metallization techniques such as vacuum deposition, sputter coating, and ion plating. *Id.*, col. 10, lines 29-44. As is well known, each of these deposition techniques results in a single metal sheet regardless of whether the sheet comprises two compositionally different layers. Moreover, upon forming the laminate, heat and pressure cause the polymer to deform, i.e., soften and stretch, and the high melting metal stretches and begins to form micro cracks. The low melting metal, more mobile because it is closer to its melting point, diffuses into these micro crack regions and prevents the formation of a crack void. In fact "most if not all of the metal in the two metal layers is in the melted state." *Id.*, col. 4, line 68 – col. 5, line 2. The resulting layers cannot "'float' or slide over one another in a non-adhered fashion," and the use of adhesive between the deposition of the metal layers would defeat the very purpose of Kurfman's invention: preventing crack voids during laminate formation. Thus, the metallized film taught by Kurfman is a single metal sheet that cannot meet the requirement

for a barrier layer comprising two separate and distinct layers of metal foil in the claimed laminates. Consequently, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for any claim wherein the rejection relies on Kurfman. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and amendments, reconsideration and favorable action on all claims is respectfully requested. In the event that any issues remain to be resolved in view of this communication, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____

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Abbreviations

y 5
blew; -blown [⁴fly + ¹blow] (1603) 1 : ta[...]
deposit eggs or young larvae of a flesh fly [...]

LY-STRIKE.
, adj (ca. 1529) 1 a : not pure : TAINTED [...]
[...]es of irresponsible power —V. L. Parrington [...]
[...] : SEEDY, MOTH-EATEN c : TRITE, HACKNEYED [...]
phors —*Horizon*> 2 a : infested with eggs [...]
h fly or blowfly b : covered with flyspecks [...]
[...]odif. of D *vlieboot*, fr. *Vlie*, channel between North [...]
- *boot* boat] (1577) : any of various fast boats [...]
(1946) : a member of the air force; *broadly* [...]

n (1965) : an open deck on a cabin cruiser located [...]
the cabin roof and usu. having a duplicate set [...]

lybys (1953) 1 : a prearranged usu. low-altitude [...]
airplanes over a public gathering (as an air show) [...]
spacecraft past a celestial body (as Mars) close [...]
[...]entific data b : a spacecraft that makes a flyby [...]
[...]ɪ-,nɪt\ n (1822) 1 : one that seeks to evade [...]
[...]p. creditors by flight 2 : one without established [...]
[...]g; *esp* : a shaky business enterprise
[...]1914) 1 : given to making a quick profit usu. by [...]
[...]e acts 2 : TRANSITORY, PASSING <~ fashions>
[...]i-bi-'nī-tər\ n (1946) : FLY-BY-NIGHT
[...]wīr\ adj (1968) : of, relating to, being, or utilizing [...]
[...]tem in which controls are operated electrically [...]
[...]cally
[...]89) : the casting of artificial flies in fly-fishing or a [...]

[...]-chər, -,ke-\ n (1678) : any of various passerine [...]
[...]scicapidae and Tyrannidae) that feed on insects [...]
[...]n insect repellent

[...]886) : an angler who uses the technique of fly [...]
[...]shiŋ\ n (1653) : a method of fishing in which an [...]
by use of a fly rod, a reel, and a relatively heavy [...]

a concealed closing on the front of a coat, skirt [...]
— fly-front \'flī-,frənt\ adj
: a narrow raised platform at the side of a theater [...]
[...]ing scenery lines are operated
(bef. 12c) 1 a : moving or capable of moving [...]
or made by moving rapidly <~ feet> <a ~ leap> [...]
tended for ready movement or action <a ~ squad [...]
[...]lized wings — used esp. of livestock brand marks [...]
the operation of aircraft <a ~ club> 5 : traversed [...]
as in speed-record trials) after a running start <a ~ [...]
flying colors : with complete or eminent success [...]
: travel by air 2 : the operation of an aircraft or [...]

: a seaplane with a hull designed for floating
[...]4) *chiefly Brit* : BUZZ BOMB
[...]1909) 1 : the highest navigational bridge on a [...]

[...](1669) : a masonry structure
[...]ists of a straight inclined bar
[...] and a solid pier or buttress
[...]uts and that receives the thrust

[...]ɪ\ n 1 : a legendary Dutch
[...] to sail the seas until Judg[...]
[...]pectral ship that according to
seas near the Cape of Good

[...]511) : any of numerous fishes
[...]e) chiefly of tropical and warm
[...]le of long gliding flights out of
[...]g their large pectoral fins like
[...] : FRUIT BAT
(1884) : any of several marine
[...]actylopteridae) that resemble
[...]e large pectoral fins allowing
[...] the water for short distances   *1 flying buttress*
) : a sail outside the jib on an
boom — see SAIL illustration
[...]183) : either of two East Indian or Philippine arbo[...]
[...]mmals (*Cynocephalus volans* and *C. variegatus*) that
of a cat, that make long gliding leaps using a broad
h side attached to and extending between the limbs
l in a separate order (Dermoptera)
1736) : an apparatus for navigating the air
[...]54) : a wrestling maneuver in which the aggressor
[...]'s wrist, turns about, and jerks him over his back
[...]913) : a commissioned officer in the British air force
[...]irst lieutenant in the army
[...]947) : any of various unidentified flying objects usu.
saucer-shaped or disk-shaped
[...]) : a spot of light moved over a surface (as one bear[...]
image) so that light reflected from or transmitted by
the surface is translated into electrical signals for
television or computers)
[...]27) : a usu. small standby group of people ready to
[...], *esp* : a police unit formed to respond quickly in [...]

[...]1624) : either of two small nocturnal No. American
[...]*ys volans* and *G. sabrinus*) with folds of skin connect[...]
d hind legs that enable it to make long gliding leaps
[...]us squirrels that possess a patagium

flying start n (1851) 1 : a start in racing in which the participants are already moving when they cross the starting line or receive the starting signal 2 : a favorable start of something

flying wedge n (1909) : a moving formation (as of guards or police) resembling a wedge

fly·leaf \'flī-,lēf\ n, pl **fly·leaves** \-,lēvz\ (1832) : one of the free endpapers of a book

fly·man \-mən, -,man\ n (1883) : a worker in the flies of a theater who manipulates curtains and scenery

fly net n (bef. 12c) : a net to exclude or keep off insects (as from a harness horse)

fly·over \'flī-,ō-vər\ n (1931) 1 : FLYBY 1 2 *Brit* : OVERPASS

fly·pa·per \-,pā-pər\ n (1847) : paper coated with a sticky often poisonous substance for killing flies

fly-past \-,past\ n (1914) *chiefly Brit* : FLYBY 1

fly rod n (1684) : a light springy fishing rod used in fly casting

flysch \'flish\ n [G dial.] (1853) : a thick and extensive deposit largely of sandstone that is formed in a geosyncline adjacent to a rising mountain belt and is esp. common in the Alpine region of Europe

fly sheet n (1833) 1 : a small loose advertising sheet : HANDBILL 2 : a sheet of a folder, booklet, or catalog giving directions for the use of or information about the material that follows

fly·speck \'flī-,spek\ n (ca. 1847) 1 : a speck made by fly excrement 2 : something small and insignificant — **flyspeck** vt

fly-strike \-,strīk\ n (1940) : infestation with fly maggots — **fly-struck** \-,strək\ adj

fly·swat·ter \-,swä-tər\ n (1917) : a device for killing insects that consists of a flat piece of perforated rubber or plastic or fine-mesh wire netting attached to a handle

fly·ti·er \'flī-,tī(-ə)r\ n [*fly* + *tier* (one that ties)] (1881) : a person who makes flies for fishing

flyt·ing \'flī-tiŋ\ n [Sc, lit., contention, gerund of *flyte* to contend, argue, fr. ME *fliten*, fr. OE *flītan*; akin to OHG *flīzan* to argue] (1508) : a dispute or exchange of personal abuse in verse form

fly·way \'flī-,wā\ n (1891) : an established air route of migratory birds

fly·weight \-,wāt\ n (1911) : a boxer in a weight division having a maximum limit of 112 pounds — compare BANTAMWEIGHT

fly·wheel \-,hwēl, -,wēl\ n (1784) : a heavy wheel for opposing and moderating by its inertia any fluctuation of speed in the machinery with which it revolves; *also* : a similar wheel used for storing kinetic energy (as for motive power)

fly whisk n (1841) : a whisk for brushing away flies

FM \'ef-,em\ n, *often attrib* [frequency modulation] (1940) : a broadcasting system using frequency modulation; *also* : a radio receiver of such a system

FMN \,ef-,em-'en\ n [flavin mononucleotide] (ca. 1953) : a yellow crystalline phosphoric ester $C_{17}H_{21}N_4O_9P$ of riboflavin that is a coenzyme of several flavoprotein enzymes

f-num·ber \'ef-,nəm-bər\ n [focal length] (ca. 1903) 1 : the ratio of the focal length to the aperture in an optical system 2 : a number following the symbol f/ that expresses the effectiveness of the aperture of a camera lens in relation to brightness of image so that the smaller the number the brighter the image and therefore the shorter the exposure required

¹foal \'fōl\ n [ME *fole*, fr. OE *fola*; akin to L *pullus* young of an animal, Gk *pais* child — more at FEW] (bef. 12c) : a young animal of the horse family; *esp* : one under one year — **in foal** : PREGNANT 3

²foal vi (14c) : to give birth to a foal

¹foam \'fōm\ n [ME *fome*, fr. OE *fām*; akin to OHG *feim* foam, L *spuma* foam, *pumex* pumice] (bef. 12c) 1 : a light frothy mass of fine bubbles formed in or on the surface of a liquid: as a : a frothy mass formed in salivating or sweating b : a stabilized froth produced chemically or mechanically and used esp. in fighting oil fires c : a material in a lightweight cellular form resulting from introduction of gas bubbles during manufacture 2 : SEA 3 : something resembling foam — **foam·less** \-ləs\ adj

²foam vi (bef. 12c) 1 a : to produce or form foam b : to froth at the mouth esp. in anger; *broadly* : to be angry 2 : to gush out in foam 3 : to become covered with or as if with foam <streets ... ~*ing* with life —Thomas Wolfe> ~ vt 1 : to cause to foam; *specif* : to cause air bubbles to form in 2 : to convert (as a plastic) into a foam — **foam·able** \'fō-mə-bəl\ adj — **foam·er** \'fō-mər\ n

foamed plastic n (1945) : EXPANDED PLASTIC

foam·flow·er \'fōm-,flau̇(-ə)r\ n (1895) : an American woodland spring-flowering herb (*Tiarella cordifolia*) that has white flowers with very long stamens and no stem leaves — called also *false miterwort*

foam rubber n (ca. 1939) : spongy rubber of fine texture made from latex by foaming (as by whipping) before vulcanization

foamy \'fō-mē\ adj **foam·i·er**; **-est** (bef. 12c) 1 : covered with foam : FROTHY 2 : full of, consisting of, or resembling foam — **foam·i·ly** \-mə-lē\ adv — **foam·i·ness** \-mē-nəs\ n

¹fob \'fäb\ vt **fobbed**; **fob·bing** [ME *fobben*] (14c) *archaic* : DECEIVE, CHEAT

²fob n [perh. akin to G dial. *Fuppe* pocket] (1653) 1 : WATCH POCKET 2 a : a short strap, ribbon, or chain attached esp. to a pocket watch 3 : an ornament attached to a fob chain

fob off vt (1597) 1 : to put off with a trick, excuse, or inferior substitute 2 : to pass or offer (something spurious) as genuine 3 : to put aside <now *fob off* what once they would have welcomed eagerly —Walter Lippmann>

fo·cac·cia \fō-'kä-ch(ē-)ə\ n [It, fr. LL *focacia* (neut. pl.), fr. L *focus* hearth] (1969) : a flat Italian bread typically seasoned with herbs and olive oil

fo·cal \'fō-kəl\ adj (1693) : of, relating to, being, or having a focus — **fo·cal·ly** \-kə-lē\ adv

focal infection n (ca. 1923) : a persistent bacterial infection of some organ or region; *esp* : one causing symptoms elsewhere in the body

fo·cal·ize \'fō-kə-,līz\ vb **-ized**; **-iz·ing** vt (1845) 1 : to bring to a focus 2 : LOCALIZE ~ vi 1 : to come to a focus : CONCENTRATE 2 : LOCALIZE — **fo·cal·iza·tion** \,fō-kə-lə-'zā-shən\ n

focal length n (1753) : the distance of a focus from the surface of a lens or curved mirror

focal plane n (1889) : a plane that is perpendicular to the axis of a lens or mirror and passes through the focus

focal point n (1713) : FOCUS 1a, 5a

focal ratio n (1926) : F-NUMBER

fo'c'sle *var of* FORECASTLE

¹fo·cus \'fō-kəs\ n, pl **fo·ci** \'fō-,sī *also* -,kī\ *also* **fo·cus·es** [NL, fr. L, hearth] (1644) 1 a : a point at which rays (as of light, heat, or sound) converge or from which they diverge or appear to diverge; *specif* : the point where the geometrical lines or their prolongations conforming to the rays diverging from or converging toward another point intersect and give rise to an image after reflection by a mirror or refraction by a lens or optical system b : a point of convergence of a beam of particles (as electrons) 2 a : FOCAL LENGTH b : adjustment for distinct vision; *also* : the area that may be seen distinctly or resolved into a clear image c : a state or condition permitting clear perception or understanding <tried to bring the issues into ~> d : DIRECTION 6c 3 : one of the fixed points that with the corresponding directrix defines a conic section 4 : a localized area of disease or the chief site of a generalized disease or infection 5 a : a center of activity, attraction, or attention <the ~ of the meeting was drug abuse> b : a point of concentration 6 : the place of origin of an earthquake or moonquake 7 : directed attention : EMPHASIS — **fo·cus·less** \-ləs\ adj — **in focus** : having or giving the proper sharpness of outline due to good focusing — **out of focus** : not in focus

²focus vb **fo·cused** *also* **fo·cussed**; **fo·cus·ing** *also* **fo·cus·sing** vt (1775) 1 a : to bring into focus b : to adjust the focus of (as the eye or a lens) 2 : to cause to be concentrated <~*ed* their attention on the most urgent problems> 3 : to bring (as light rays) to a focus : CONCENTRATE ~ vi 1 : to come to a focus : CONVERGE 2 : to adjust one's eye or a camera to a particular range 3 : to concentrate attention or effort — **fo·cus·able** \-kə-sə-bəl\ adj — **fo·cus·er** n

fod·der \'fä-dər\ n [ME, fr. OE *fōdor*; akin to OHG *fuotar* food — more at FOOD] (bef. 12c) 1 : something fed to domestic animals; *esp* : coarse food for cattle, horses, or sheep 2 : inferior or readily available material used to supply a heavy demand <routine entertainment ~> <~ for gossip columnists> — **fodder** vt

fod·gel \'fä-jəl\ adj [origin unknown] (1724) *Scot* : BUXOM

foe \'fō\ n [ME *fo*, fr. OE *fāh*, fr. *fāh*, adj., hostile; akin to OHG *gifēh* hostile] (bef. 12c) 1 : one who has personal enmity for another 2 a : an enemy in war b : ADVERSARY, OPPONENT 3 : one who opposes on principle <a ~ of needless expenditures> 4 : something prejudicial or injurious

foehn *or* **föhn** \'fə(r)n, 'fœn, 'fān\ n [G *Föhn*] (1861) : a warm dry wind blowing down the side of a mountain

foe·man \'fō-mən\ n (bef. 12c) : FOE 2

foe·tal, **foe·tus** *chiefly Brit var of* FETAL, FETUS

foe·tid *var of* FETID

foeto- *or* **foeti-** *chiefly Brit var of* FETO-

¹fog \'fòg, 'fäg\ n [prob. of Scand origin; akin to Dan *fog* spray, shower] (1544) 1 a : vapor condensed to fine particles of water suspended in the lower atmosphere that differs from cloud only in being near the ground b : a fine spray or a foam for fire fighting 2 : a murky condition of the atmosphere or a substance causing it 3 a : a state of confusion or bewilderment b : something that confuses or obscures <hid behind a ~ of rhetoric> 4 : cloudiness or partial opacity in a developed photographic image caused by chemical action or stray radiation — **fog·less** \-ləs\ adj

²fog vb **fogged**; **fog·ging** vt (1599) 1 : to cover, envelop, or suffuse with or as if with fog <~ the barns with pesticide> 2 : to make obscure or confusing <accusations which *fogged* the real issues> 3 : to make confused 4 : to produce fog on (as a photographic film) during development ~ vi 1 : to become covered or thick with fog 2 a : to become blurred by a covering of fog or mist b : to become indistinct through exposure to light or radiation

fog·bound \'fòg-,bau̇nd, 'fäg-\ adj (ca. 1855) 1 : unable to move because of fog <~ ship> 2 : covered with or surrounded by fog <~ coast>

fog·bow \-,bō\ n (1831) : a nebulous arc or circle of white or yellowish light sometimes seen in fog

fog·gage \'fò-gij, 'fä-\ n [Sc, fr. ME (Sc) *fogage*, fr. AL *fogagium*, fr. ME *fogge* second growth of grass + ML *-agium* -age] (1786) *Scot* : a second growth of grass

fog·gy \'fò-gē, 'fä-\ adj **fog·gi·er**; **-est** (15c) 1 a : filled or abounding with fog b : covered or made opaque by moisture or grime 2 : blurred or obscured as if by fog <hadn't the *foggiest* notion> — **fog·gi·ly** \'fò-gə-lē, 'fä-\ adv — **fog·gi·ness** \'fò-gē-nəs, 'fä-\ n

Foggy Bottom n [*Foggy Bottom*, district in Washington, D.C.] (1951) : the U.S. Department of State

fog·horn \'fòg-,hòrn, 'fäg-\ n (1858) 1 : a horn (as on a ship) sounded in a fog to give warning 2 : a loud hoarse voice

fo·gy *also* **fo·gey** \'fō-gē\ n, pl **fogies** *also* **fogeys** [origin unknown] (1780) : a person with old-fashioned ideas — usu. used with *old* — **fo·gy·ish** \-gē-ish\ adj — **fo·gy·ism** \-gē-,i-zəm\ n

foi·ble \'fȯi-bəl\ n [obs. F (now *faible*), fr. obs. *foible* weak, fr. OF *feble* feeble] (ca. 1648) 1 : the part of a sword or foil blade between the middle and point 2 : a minor flaw or shortcoming in character or behavior : WEAKNESS *syn* see FAULT

foie gras \'fwä-'grä\ n [F, lit., fat liver] (1818) : the fatted liver of an animal and esp. of a goose usu. served as a pâté

¹foil \'fȯi(ə)l\ vt [ME, to trample, full cloth, fr. MF *fouler* — more at FULL] (14c) 1 *obs* : TRAMPLE 2 a : to prevent from attaining an end : DEFEAT b : to bring to naught : THWART *syn* see FRUSTRATE

²foil n [ME, leaf, fr. MF *foille* (fr. L *folia*, pl. of *folium*) & *foil*, fr. L *folium* — more at BLADE] (14c) 1 : very thin sheet metal <aluminum ~> 2 : a thin piece of material (as metal) put under an inferior or paste stone to add color or brilliance 3 : someone or something that serves as a contrast to another <acted as a ~ for a comedian> 4 a : an indentation between cusps in Gothic tracery b : one of several arcs that enclose a complex figure 5 : HYDROFOIL 1